

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A scale device comprising:
  - a scale member having position signals provided thereon;
  - a case member ~~having~~ for housing the scale member ~~housed~~ therein and including a guide opening formed therein having opposing walls;
  - a pair of seal lip members formed from a flexible sheet material, ~~and installed for wherein~~ end portions ~~thereof to be~~ of the pair of seal lip members are in elastic contact with each other along ~~opposite~~ the opposing walls of the guide opening, ~~in the case member~~, thus closing the guide opening along ~~the~~ a full length of the guide opening;
  - a detector unit disposed inside the case member ~~oppositely to the surface, carrying the position signals, of the case member and which detects~~ for detecting the position signals of the scale member;
  - a carrier unit which slides relative to the case member as a moving part of a machine on which the scale device is to be used ~~move~~;
  - a coupling member ~~penetrated~~ penetrating through the guide opening in the case member to provide a coupling between the detector unit and the carrier unit and which ~~moves sliding~~ slides in the guide opening while spreading out the pair of seal lip members as the case member and the carrier unit slide relative to each other; and
  - a pair of seal lip pressing ~~means~~ members provided on opposing sides of the carrier unit, ~~at opposite sides~~, respectively, of the pair of seal lip members and opposite ends, respectively, of the coupling member to press ~~the~~ outer lateral sides of the pair of seal lip members, ~~between them~~, thereby keeping the guide opening closed.

2. (currently amended) The scale device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pair of seal lip pressing ~~means in pair members~~ are provided to press the outer lateral sides of the ~~opposite pair of~~ seal lip members with a gap ~~L between them being as given below:~~ within the range between  $2(t - \delta)$  and  $2t$ ,

$$[[2(t - \delta) < L < 2t]]$$

where ~~t is the~~ represents a thickness of each of the pair of seal lip members and  ~~$\delta$  is the~~ represents an elastic deformation of each of the pair of seal lip members.

3. (currently amended) The scale device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pair of seal lip pressing ~~means in pair members~~ are provided to press the outer lateral sides of the ~~opposite pair of~~ seal lip members with a gap ~~L between them being as given below:~~ within the range between  $2(t - \delta)$  and  $C \cdot \tan \theta + 2t$ ,

$$[[2(t - \delta) < L < C \cdot \tan \theta + 2t]]$$

where ~~t is the~~ represents a thickness of each of the pair of seal lip members,  ~~$\delta$  is the~~ represents an elastic deformation of each of the pair of seal lip members, C is a position of ~~the~~ a pressed point from ~~the~~ an end of ~~the~~ each of pair of seal lip members, and  ~~$\theta$  is the~~ represents an opening angle between the pair of seal lip members.

4. (currently amended) The scale device as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the pair of seal lip members is formed from a low-friction, abrasion-resistant material.

5. (currently amended) The scale device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:  
each of the pair of seal lip members is a convex portion formed integrally on the carrier unit; and

a slit parallel to the pair of seal lip members is formed in ~~the~~ a base end of each convex portion to make the carrier unit flexible in ~~the~~ a pressing direction of the pair of seal lip members.

6. (currently amended) The scale device as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the pair of seal lip members is a roller bearing installed rotatably on the carrier unit.

7. (currently amended) The scale device as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the pair of seal lip members is an elastic piece cantilevered at one end thereof by the carrier unit and ~~whose~~ a free end of the carrier unit presses ~~the~~ an outer lateral side of each of the pair of seal lip members.

8. (currently amended) The scale device as set forth in claim 1, wherein there are formed on ~~the~~ lateral sides, respectively, of the case member and carrier unit, opposite to each other, holding portions which are engaged ~~on each other~~ to hold both the case member and the carrier unit ~~combined with each other~~.